

NOTES ON ILLINOIS NEMOGNATHINAE (Meloidae)

By JOHN K. BOUSEMAN¹

Beetles of the meloid subfamily Nemognathinae have been rather infrequently collected in the region east of the Mississippi River. The available distributional data for this group in America north of Mexico have recently been summarized by Enns (1956, Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull., 37: 685-909).

During the summer of 1958 the author made a special effort to collect representatives of Nemognathinae in Illinois, and the results are herein recorded. Unless otherwise stated, all collections were made by the author. The determinations of the species were verified by Richard B. Selander.

Nemognatha lurida LeConte

This species has been collected on *Helianthus* at two localities in south-central Illinois: Farina, Fayette County, August 16, and Mason, Effingham County, August 16 and 22. These records are of considerable interest as they are the first for the species east of the Mississippi River. A total of twenty-five specimens were taken at the two localities. The Illinois specimens are assignable to the race *lurida*; in three of them the scutellum, under surface of the thorax, and the base of the abdomen are black, and the femora are darkened.

Nemognatha nemorensis Hentz

Enns records this species from only a single locality in Illinois: Cahokia [Cahokia], St. Clair County, on the Mississippi River floodplain just south of East St. Louis. Since the publication of his paper it has been taken in the Shawnee Hills region of southeastern Illinois, at Pounds Hollow Recreation Area, Gallatin County, June 29, and in the west-central part of the state at Mason State Forest, Mason County, July 6, and July 13 (J. K. Bouseman and R. B. Selander). At both localities adults were found in abundance on the flowers of *Rudbeckia hirta*. At Pounds Hollow the *Rudbeckia* is limited to the edge of a stand of *Pinus echinata*. At Mason State Forest *Rudbeckia* occurs in a variety of situations, but the beetles were found on it only locally, along the edge of an oak-hickory woods. On July 13, at Mason State Forest, several females were observed ovipositing on the bracts of *Rudbeckia* flowers. Egg clusters collected at that time hatched July 15.

¹Department of Entomology, University of Illinois, Urbana.

Rhyphonemognatha rufa (LeConte)

Enns records this interesting species in Illinois from Roseville, Warren County. At the time his revision appeared this was the easternmost point in the United States at which it had been collected. A specimen taken in flight at Urbana, Champaign County, July 8, extends the known range 100 miles eastward.

Zonitis vittigera (LeConte)

Two specimens of this species were taken at Mason State Forest, Mason County, July 13 (J. K. Bouseman and R. B. Selander), and two at Mason, Effingham County, August 13. The former were found on flowerheads of *Rudbeckia hirta*. Enns indicates that the species is probably statewide in distribution in Illinois.